

Kingdom, Pitcairn buys most of its off-island needs from New Zealand; practically nothing is purchased from the U.S.) Most islanders have their own gardens for vegetables and fruits, and catch fish so a relatively small amount of food-stuffs are imported.

Herbert Ford, director of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, came upon this discrepancy in a recent news story that stated Wisconsin exported \$47,925 worth of goods to Pitcairn in 2005. He noted that they will likely never learn the answer if the responses to his appeals for information are any indication. Telephone calls brought no answer and requests for information went unanswered.

April 5, 2006. *Pitcairn Islands Study Center, Pacific Union College, 1 Angwin Avenue, Angwin, CA 94508*
<http://library.puc.edu/pitcairn/>

NEW ZEALAND

PRO-WHALING NATIONS WON THE VOTE at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) after four Pacific Island nations sided with Japan. They voted on a resolution stating that a 20 year moratorium on commercial whale hunting was "no longer necessary" and blamed the whales for depleting fish stocks. The non-binding resolution passed 33 votes to 32 and was a political victory for Japan and its allies, which hope to return to commercial whaling.

New Zealand Conservation Minister, Chris Carter, stated that the vote was a warning to the world: "It's a wakeup call to the rest of the world that the whales that we thought were safe are not." And Japan would continue "buying" votes from poor countries through generous aid packages until they defeat the moratorium. Carter expressed disappointment with the Pacific Island nations that sided with Japan: Solomons, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and Nauru had previously told him they would not vote in favor of overturning the moratorium. New Zealand has gone "the extra mile" for many of these nations, and Carter stated that it was reasonable to expect some goodwill in return. Greenpeace condemned the resolution and in particular the view that whales were responsible for destroying fish stocks.

USP Beat Magazine, Vol. 6 (9), 2006.

ABERDEEN (SCOTLAND) UNIVERSITY'S Marischal Museum will return nine tattooed Maori heads that they have been storing for more than a century. The Te Papa Museum in Wellington, New Zealand, asked for the return of the heads so it could conduct its own research.

Arizona Republic, 20 July 2006

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGA ROA

THE RETURN OF MR UGLY

A SERIOUSLY UGLY *moai* with a nose like that of Jimmy Durante's has been shipped back to the island. A visual artist from Argentina, Rosa Velasco, returned it as a "matter of reparation." The 1.45 m tall *moai* originally was a gift from Easter Island to the Chilean president, Carlos Ibañez del Campo in the 1920s, and was transported to the mainland.



President Ibañez gave it to his wife's brother-in-law, Carlos Ossandon. Next, Rosa Velasco's father bought it and later tried to sell it through a dealer in Holland. The statue was sent to Amsterdam and Velasco was given a US\$30,000 warrant check. The Dutch never sent the money and when several Polynesian experts declared it to be a modern carving, Mr Velasco was accused of trying to sell a fake. A long legal process began. Over the years, one of the lawyers who represented Velasco was found dead and the other simply disappeared (these were troubled times in Argentina). The *moai* was retained at the customs office in Buenos Aires for 10 years and subsequently bought at auction by a pharmacist. Rosa Velasco paid the pharmacist US\$3000 for the statue, for "sentimental reasons" and stored it at the house of some of Rosa's friends in Buenos Aires for another 20 years.

Now it is back on Rapa Nui. The *moai rake rake* ("ugly statue"), as islanders call it, was declared to be Hinariru (the first king) by the mayor! Then another islander said that he dreamed that the statue came from the land where the Hanga-roa Hotel is located. With that as "evidence," they were able to get the owners of the hotel to pay for flying it over to the island. Not only is it poorly made and seriously ugly, the iconography is all wrong. The arms are crossed on the upper

chest and, as mentioned, the nose is totally out of the stone *moai* aesthetic. At last we heard, it was standing outside the office of the governor, still in its packing crate.

There is a hidden agenda here. Many islanders are keen to repatriate all statues that were taken from the island in earlier years and now are displayed at such prestigious museums as the British Museum, the Smithsonian, etc., and at various sites on mainland Chile. So the *moai rake rake* was the first to be sent back, and even though it clearly is neither ancient nor of any cultural value, it is the FIRST to be repatriated. While the world's major museums are unlikely to send back those statues taken in years past, hope springs eternal.

FROM THE ISLAND COMES NEWS of excavations at the site of the old Hangaroa hotel which has been torn down (a new three-story hotel will be built in its place). Archaeologist José Miguel Ramírez is in charge of the project and he reports that his crew excavated 50 x 50 cm pits every 25 meters; almost all revealed cultural deposits, mainly obsidian flakes. The most interesting find was an occupation site associated with a *puku* (basalt outcrop). Rafael Rapu worked there in an earlier survey in 1977, and he remembered seeing a *taheta* (stone basin) here also. However, it is gone now, probably because the *puku* was used for quarrying rock. Aside from obsidian flakes, they found many *toki* (stone picks) and stone drills. Another site on the hotel grounds, known as Ahu Makere, next to the coastal road, appears to have been unfinished. Ramírez found no signs of *moai*, plaza, or *poro* stones. The survey is preliminary work for the mitigation proposal to the Consejo de Monumentos which intends to rescue a sample of the most important occupation sites (perhaps 50 %), as well as reparation of the *ahu*. The *puku* may be included in the design of the new hotel.

THE ISLAND'S GENERATOR no longer has sufficient capacity for the needs of the village. In July, the electricity went down several times, causing prolonged blackouts. July also found the island without propane; bakers were unable to make bread, hotels lacked hot water, and many private homes were without propane for cooking and hot water.

The supply ship brought 900 bottles of propane gas but the larger hotels, such as the Hangaroa hotel, bought up so many of them that there was little left for individuals to buy. At the end of July, the Hotel Manavai and some other hotels were still without gas, and bakeries were still closed, unable to use their ovens.

DURING THE CELEBRATION of the "day of cultural patrimony," the Museo Antropológico R.P. Sebastián Englert held an open house for the more than 200 people who visited the museum and the William Mulloy Library. Exhibits related the ancient history of the island and also commemorated the 50 years since the Norwegian Expedition came to the island, in 1955-56. Visitors showed particular interest in the William Mulloy Library and its photographic archive. The collections department, normally closed to the public, was also open for visitors. Sr Francisco Torres, Director of the Museum, personally guided visitors around the collections. The celebra-

tion included a performance by the Kari Kari dance group, performed in the plaza in front of the museum for the enjoyment of visitors [See item on page 149].

THE CHILEAN SENATE VOTED TO APPROVE a constitutional amendment establishing Easter Island and the Juan Fernandez islands as "special territories" no longer under the direction of the Quinta Región. Congress still has to vote on this issue.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 3 May 2006

MORE THAN 50 MILLION PESOS worth of horticultural products are consumed monthly on Easter Island. A government program has been initiated to encourage more efficient methods of agriculture on the island, and to introduce new varieties of tropical fruits; the program will directly benefit 120 families.

WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY HAS ARRIVED TO Easter Island! Part of a project called "Rapa Nui Global," it is headed by the University of Viña del Mar. This technological revolution combines the forces of Entel Chile, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, and Hewlett Packard. The first stage incorporates and installs wireless technology for internet use. Running parallel with that are platforms to help develop a digital library, systems of academic administration for the island school, "e-learning" programs so that islanders can continue their studies in technical careers; programs of e-business, support for tourism and small businesses; programs of e-government to increase the administrative capacity of the municipality and the local authorities, and the initiation of a means of community communication. Mayor Petero Edmunds says the initiative will strengthen the identity of islanders, increase connections between generations, and promote a dialogue and understanding of the patrimony of humanity. Easter Island will have a Data Center and antennas will be installed; the local network will be reconfigured and a wide-band system will be activated. A municipal internet/web site will be developed as well as free connection of wide-band service to the Liceo Lorenzo Baeza (the school). A digital library is to be created, along with twenty web sites intended for small businesses.

AN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED SOME 300 miles west of Rapa Nui on May 24th. The Richter scale reading was 5.6; the epicenter was about 300 miles west of the island. This is not unusual for this region, which has many fault lines. On June 14th, a small tsunami hit Rapa Nui's south coast. The ten-meter high wave affected Ahu Hanga Maihiku, washing away some 40 centimeters of soil. The source of the tsunami has not been identified. (Some believe that statues may have fallen as the result of earthquakes, particularly from those *ahu* that exhibit no other signs of disturbance. Because of the construction methodology, earth movements could agitate an *ahu*'s rubble fill, the pressure causing retaining walls to burst open. Rubble spilling out from the statues' bases could cause the statues to fall. [See *RNJ* 1996, Vol. 10(1):1-15, "When the Earth Trembled, the Statues Fell" by Edmundo Edwards, R. Marchetti, L. Dominichetti and O. González-Ferrán.]

WOULD YOU BELIEVE TRAFFIC JAMS on Hangaroa's main street? Coming from the bank, it is nearly impossible to turn either way on Atamu Tekena street. Locals complain that the Chileans park along the street and then get out and stroll around. Cars often are double-parked, causing gridlock all along the street. And locals tell us that exiting the parking lot at the airport would be impossible without police directing traffic. And to think there were five vehicles on the island in 1975!

VISITORS TO 'ORONGO in June experienced a rare treat when they spotted a pod of around 30 whales cavorting near Motu Kao Kao and Motu Nui. Whales are rare in these waters, although island guide, Conny Martin, saw some from 'Orongo about four years ago, and she also spotted some in the waters off Tepeu.

TOURISM STATISTICS FOR 2005. In 2005, 46,320 tourists came to the island, an increase of nearly 10,000 from the year before. Seventy percent of the visitors were foreigners and the average tourist stay was five days. Of those who arrived to the island, 83% came via air, and 16.7% came via sea, with 99.5% of those coming on cruise ships. 45% of the tourists were from Europe; 11% came from North America and 12% from Asia.

As far as the comments made by tourists, 22.5% complained about being unable to use their Visa cards, and 37.5% wanted more variety in food choices and more cultural activities. More women than men visited the island, 55.1% vs 44.9%; and more than 30% were between 25 and 34 years of age. As for accommodations, 48.5% stayed in hotels and 30.3% in *residenciales*. Eighty-seven percent came for a vacation.

Tataku Bulletin No. 13. 2005.
www.taraihenua.com

THERE IS A NEW WEBSITE for Easter Island sporting events, www.makemakerapanui.com, with information about diving, surfing, mountain biking, etc. What brought us up short was an item regarding the re-activation of the Birdman ceremony at 'Orongo. The site mentions that a delegation from Red Bull (a beverage) came to the island for some advance planning for a future birdman competition. Initially, competitors will be Rapanui but, in coming years, outsiders who are into extreme competitions will be allowed to compete. Wow. Hope the competitors have their insurance premiums paid up.

RAPANUI PIANIST MAHANI TEAVE is a pursuing her studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Ohio. Only 23, she performed with Chile's Symphony Orchestra in July, as well as giving a benefit concerts in Valdivia and Arica. Mahani's classic Polynesian features, talent and dedication have brought her a following of admirers. Her first instructor was Chilean pianist, Roberto Bravo, who recognized her innate talent at an early age. She has held prize-winning performances throughout Chile, Spain, and in the United States. Mahani admitted that life in the United States is expensive and she has had to be innovative in trying to

support herself. She has played at churches, sold earrings, and worked at her school dorm. She has downsized by taking lessons from only one instructor. Mahani always dreamed of playing with Chile's symphony orchestra and before traveling to her island home for a visit, she hopes to help some current piano students in Chile, to show them what she has learned. She is happy that her talent can reach people: "Why are we given talents, if not to push them to their limits?"

El Mercurio 24 July 2006

"PACIFIC ENCOUNTERS: ART AND DIVINITY in Polynesia 1760-1860" is an outstanding exhibit of Polynesian art on view at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. Curator Steven Hooper has brought together over 260 rarely or never before seen objects, mainly from British museums. The pieces, many of which date from the 18th century, are in exquisite condition, including a feather headdress from Rapa Nui collected by the Forsters and now at Pitt Rivers Museum. Though the exhibit run is much too short for an exhibit of this high caliber, 21 May - 13 August 2006, there is fortunately a very thorough and very beautifully crafted catalog, published by the British Museum Press. There are also plans to install the objects from the British Museum in that institution after the Sainsbury exhibit closes.

Hooper, Steven. 2006. *Pacific Encounters: Art and Divinity in Polynesia 1760-1860*. London: British Museum Press. ISBN: 0-7141-2575-X288 pp., 340 illustrations. \$39, available at amazon.com.

"AKU AKU FROM AFAR"
An exhibition about the 1955/56 Norwegian
Archaeological Expedition to Rapa Nui
- as remembered today

By Olaug Irene Røsvik Andreassen, Exhibition coordinator

"Alle fugler små de er... ('all the little birds'...) do you remember the rest of the lines?" Of course I do; this song would be a childhood memory of any Norwegian. What was more surprising about this question is that it was asked by a Rapanui, and on Rapa Nui. Angela Tepano, a beautiful grey-haired *nua* selling souvenirs in the Mataverí airport followed up her question by humming the rest of my childhood's song about the migrating birds returning in the spring and chasing away the snow of winter. "I was only a little girl of seven when the expedition was here," Angela then explained, "but I used to go with my cousin Maria to bring food up to Rano Raraku and when the Norwegians didn't work, they sang!"

She went on telling me her memories like so many other Rapanui have done simply upon learning that I'm from the same country as "Señor Kon-Tiki".

FROM SCATTERED MEMORIES TO AN EXHIBITION
In order to save some of these living memories before all those that experienced the expedition would be gone, archaeologist Helene Martinsson-Wallin started an interview project in 2004. We were then contacted by the Chilean Council of